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Research Article

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DOES JAVANESE HAVE INFLECTIONAL PHRASE?

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Abstract

In generative grammar, especially in the X-bar theory, all syntactic constructions are claimed to be endocentric. This principle enforces a sentence or a clause to be treated as an inflectional phrase, with the inflectional category as the head. This principle has been attested for many languages and it has become a general rule. However, some languages like Javanese may behave differently from languages having the inflection system like English. This paper aims to discuss whether Javanese has Inflectional phrase or not. The data used in this study was taken from a Javanese magazine Panjebar Semangat, collected using an observation technique. The result of the analysis shows that Javanese lexicons expressing tense, aspect, and modals belong to inflections and they have the maximal projection as Inflectional Phrase.

Keywords: inflectional phrase, Javanese, X-bar theory

1. Introduction

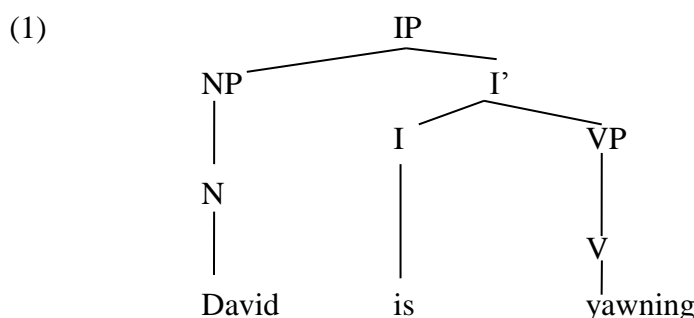
In the traditional model of constituent structure, a syntactic construction can be endocentric or exocentric, depending on whether it has a head element inside the construction or not. Endocentric constructions, such as noun phrase (NP) and verb phrase (VP), have a head that belongs to the same category of the name of the phrase. Meanwhile, exocentric constructions are those that do not have a head inside the constructions. Clauses or sentences are some examples of exocentric constructions in this traditional model.

Unlike the traditional model, the generative model of constituent structure argues that all syntactic constructions are endocentric, and the head of a phrase has the same category as the name of the phrase (see Newson et.al, 2006; Dalrymple, 2001). With this principle, a clause or a sentence is not projected as Sentence (S), as found in the traditional model (See Fromkin et.al, 2003, 128-129), but as Inflectional Phrase (IP), having the inflection (I) category as the head. This implies that the maximal projection of any syntactic constructions is a phrase, the name of which is the same as the name of the head category.

So far, the concept of inflectional phrase has been attested for many languages, such as English (see Newson et.al, 2006), which is rich of inflections. English requires that the main verb of a clause should be filled with a finite or tensed verb. In addition, there is a word category called modals whose distribution is always before a verb. This is different from languages that allow non-verbal predicates like Javanese. In this case, some tests are required to know whether Javanese has inflectional phrase or not. This papers aims to show that the concept of inflectional phrase is universal and so it can also be applied on Javanese data.

The concept of inflection and inflectional phrase is related to word categories, which are basically classified to two major groups: lexical and functional categories. Lexical categories cover Nouns, Verbs, Adjectives, Adverbs, and Prepositions, while functional categories are Determiners and inflections. The difference between lexical and functional categories lies on the fact that lexical categories carry a lexical meaning, but functional categories have a grammatical meaning. In other words, the occurrence of functional categories is required by the grammar.

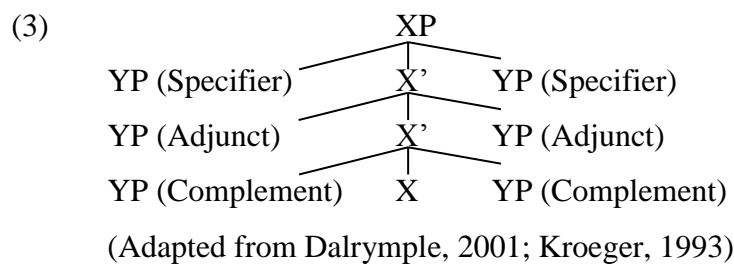
In the X-bar theory, each of the categories functions as the head of its maximal projection or a phrase. In other words, the maximal projection of a head is a phrase. In English, for example, modals like ‘will’, ‘can’, ‘should’ and auxiliary verbs like ‘is’, ‘am’, and ‘are’, belong to the inflection category. This category is functional in nature because they are a part of the English grammar. In a constituent structure, this category functions as the head of an inflectional phrase or a sentence. This implies that a sentence is treated as an endocentric construction with an inflection as the head and a VP as the complement. The following example taken from Dalrymple (2001:54) illustrates the projection of inflectional phrase (IP) into inflection (I) as the head and a VP as the complement.



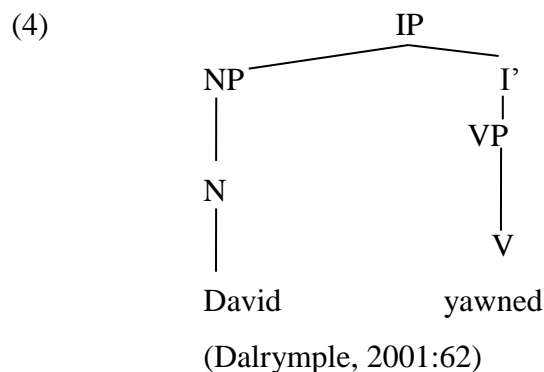
The phrase structure above shows that the sentence “David is yawning” has the projection as IP. The head of this phrase is the auxiliary ‘is’, which has the inflection (I) category, and the complement of the head is the VP ‘yawning’. In this context, the complement functions to complete the head, and the head is the controller. The occurrence of the *-ing* form ‘yawning’ is because of the auxiliary ‘is’, that requires the verb in the *ing*-form. This is also the reason why the auxiliary ‘is’ and the verb ‘yawning’ should be treated as a constituent. The constituent structure within the X-bar theory as shown above also explains that the position of the head is always under X’ (X-bar) next to its complement XP. This is different from the position of Adjunct, which is under X’ next to X’, or the position

of Specifier, which is under XP, next to I'. The constituent rules and structure for Specifier, Complement, and Adjunct in the X-bar theory can be seen in (2) and (3) below.

- (2) a. $XP \rightarrow YP \ X'$
 b. $X' \rightarrow X \ YP$
 c. $X' \rightarrow X' \ Y/YP$



As the minimal projection of a phrase, a head is not always overly expressed. In other words, the occurrence of a head is optional in a phrase (see Dalrymple, 2001:50-60; Falk, 2001). In the case of IP, the I category can be empty, and this happens when a sentence does not contain any modal or auxiliary, as seen in the following example.



In the phrase structure above, the verb 'yawned' is a finite verb as it carries the past tense marker '-ed'. This verb stands alone as the predicate, and so it does not have a head. However, this verb is under the projection of I' (I-bar) because the VP category actually contains an inflection element, which is a tense marker. In addition, the I' category can have the projection of not only VP alone but also I and VP. This implies that an inflectional phrase may contain inflection as the head, and may not have a head. If IP has a head, the complement of I should be VP.

2. Research Method

The data used in this study were taken from the Javanese magazine *Panjebar Semangat*. In addition, I also used data from Javanese native speakers to complete the written data as well as to check the grammatical acceptability of some attested data. As a native speaker of Javanese, I also used a reflexive- introspective method (see Sudaryanto, 1993) to produce some data. To check the grammatical acceptability of the data, I consulted the data with Javanese native speakers being the informants of this study

3. Inflectional Phrase in Javanese

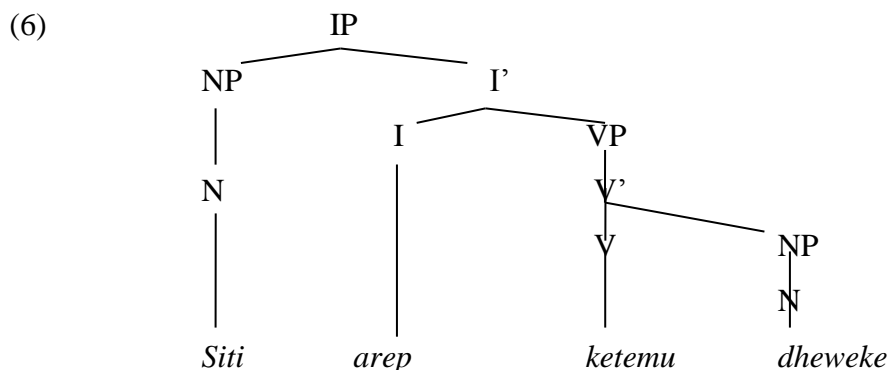
Unlike English, Javanese does not have inflections on the verbs, and so finite and non-finite verbs cannot be identified from the morphological form. This is due to the fact that tense, aspect, and mood are expressed by using certain lexicons. Javanese has a tense marker expressed by the lexicon *arep* 'will' for the future tense. Javanese also has aspectual markers expressed by the lexicons *wis* (for perfect aspect), *lagi* (for progressive aspect), *durung* (for imperfect aspect), and modals such as *isa* 'can', *entuk* 'may', *kudu* 'should', *mungkin* 'may be'.

The lexicons expressing tense and aspect occur before a verb or in a preverbal position, and it is not allowed to reverse the position. This distribution, which is similar with the distribution of English auxiliaries. The following examples show that the position of tense and aspect markers is only between Subject and the verb, as in (5.a). The placement of tense and aspect markers after the verb as in (3.b), in the final position after an Object, as in (5.c), or in the initial position before the subject, as in (5.d), results in ungrammatical constructions.

- (5) a. *Siti {arep /wis/durung/lagi} ketemu dheweke*
NAME will /PERF/IMPERF/PROG meet 3SG
'Siti {will meet/has met/ hasn't met /is meeting} her'
- b. **Siti ketemu {arep /wis/durung/lagi} dheweke*
NAME meet {will /PERF/IMPERF/PROG} 3SG
- c. **Siti ketemu dheweke {arep /wis/durung/lagi}*
NAME meet 3SG {will /PERF/IMPERF/PROG}
- d. **{Arep /wis/durung/lagi} Siti ketemu dheweke*
{will /PERF/IMPERF/PROG} NAME meet 3SG

The examples above implies that the lexicons expressing tense and aspect form a constituent with the verb that follows as the position of these lexicons is definite. This also shows that the lexicons behave like auxiliaries in English, and so we can claim that they are

inflections. Meanwhile, the verb that follows the tense or aspect lexicons is the complement. The following phrase structure tree illustrates the position of auxiliary and the verb complement in an IP.



The constituent structure above shows that the lexicon *arep* ‘will’ has the I category, which is the inflection category, and it has the complement *ketemu dheweke* ‘meet’ her/him’, which has the category VP. The Subject of the sentence, *Siti* occurs in the NP category, and it has the Specifier position. This constituent structure applies to all tense and aspect markers in Javanese.

Another group of lexicons that fill the I category is modals. In Javanese, modals behave like tense and aspect markers in the sense that they occur before a verb. However, the distribution of modals is slightly different from that of tense and aspect markers. Most modals, except *kudu* ‘should’ can be fronted to the position before Subject.

- (7) a. *Sinta {isa /entuk/mesthi/mungkin} lunga menyang Semarang*
 NAME can/may/must/ may be go to Semarang
 ‘Sinta {can go/ may go/ must have gone/ may be going} to Semarang’
- b. *{Isa /entuk/mesthi/mungkin}Sinta lunga menyang Semarang*
 Can/may/must/ may be NAMA go to Semarang
 ‘{Can / May/ Must} Sinta go to Semarang?’
- (8) a. *Martono kudu adus dhisik*
 NAME should bath first
 ‘Should Martono take a bath first’
- b. **Kudu Martono adus dhisik*
 should NAME bath first
 ‘Should Martono take a bath first’

The examples in (7) above show that modals in Javanese behave like English modals. They occur directly before a verb or in the initial position before the Subject, as in interrogative sentences. The only modal that cannot be fronted is *kudu* ‘should’. This

modal, however, has a fixed position, that is before a verb. This implies that modals in Javanese form a constituent with the verb that follows. This is different from Javanese adverbs that have a flexible position, as seen from the following example.

- (9) a. *Mira cepet-cepet adus neng kali*
Name hurriedly bath at river
'Mira hurriedly took a bath at the river'
- b. *Mira adus neng kali cepet-cepet*
Name bath at river hurriedly
'Mira took a bath at the river hurriedly'

The sentences in (9) show the adverb *cepat-cepat* 'hurriedly' can occur before the verb as in (9-a) or in the final position, as in (9-b). This flexible position of adverb is common across languages because adverbs do not form a constituent with a verb. This, surely different from Inflections, which have a fixed position. This shows that modals in Javanese should be treated as inflections, which have the maximal projection as Inflectional Phrase.

4. Conclusion

Javanese has lexicons expressing tense, aspects, and modals. The lexicon expressing tense is *arep*, which is a future tense marker. The lexicons for showing aspects are *wis* (for perfect aspect), *durung* (for imperfect aspect), and *lagi* (for progressive aspect). Meanwhile, the Javanese modals are *isa* 'can', *entuk* 'may', *mesthi* 'must', *mungkin* 'may be', and *kudu* 'should'. The distribution of these lexicons is different from adverbs, as they can only occur directly before a verb or in the initial position before the Subject position. This is different from the distribution of Javanese adverbs that are flexible.

Javanese tense, aspect, and modals should be treated as inflections, which have the maximal projection as IP. This inflection category has the following VP functioning as the complement. This is due to the fact that the inflection category and the following verb form a constituent.

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